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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/605,801    06/28/00    PEDERSON

J    N47.2-9141

EXAMINER
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000490

TM02/0529

VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS, P.A.  
6109 BLUE CIRCLE DRIVE  
SUITE 2000  
MINNETONKA MN 55343-9185

CROSLAND, D	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2632

DATE MAILED:

05/29/01

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/605,801

Applicant(s)

PEDERSON, JOHN C.

Examiner

DONNIE L. CROSLAND

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 8,9.

- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoksza et al in view of Bezos et al.

Yoksza shows the modular signal light system and includes a support having at least one module receiving port (complementary electrical jack extending from display 100, col. 3, lines 47-52, and figure 7, col. 3, lines 28-46) and at least one module 10 having at least one light emitting diode light source 22 engaged thereto, the module having at least one support engagement member in the form of an electrical jack 42 constructed and arranged to be removably received by the at least one module receiving port (col. 3, lines 47 et seq., col. 5, lines 4-12), the module 10 and the light emitting diode source 22 in electrical communication with one another, see the circuitry

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in figure 9, and a controller (not shown) in electric communication with the support (complementary electrical jack extending from display 100), the module 10, and the light emitting diode source 22, the controller (centrally located processing unit) constructed and arranged to selectively activate the light emitting diode source to create at least one warning light, col. 3, lines 55-58.

Bezos shows a modular signal light system for use as "warning".

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use the modular signal light of Yoksza as a warning since the use and advantages of a modular signal light unit as a warning is clearly suggested by Bezos.

Bezos also suggests the control of the plural modular light system by intensity control, and light pattern control, col. 3, lines 1-8.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to control the intensity as well as the pattern of the light modules of Yoksza since the control of intensity and pattern of the light modules are suggested by Bezos.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Yamuro shows a module light warning system and includes the specified support having the module receiving port 36 in figure 8D, the controller being in electrical communication with the receiving port 36, col. 5, lines 60 et seq., and col. 6.

Kniveton shows in figure 11 the specified receiving port on printed circuit board 44, col. 4, lines 13-22. It is noted that there are two receiving ports serving as a mechanical connection and an electrical connection..

Ichikawa et al shows the LED module wherein connecting pins 24 are removably received by a receiving port (holes formed in the panel socket to which the LEDs are mounted, col. 4, lines 40-47, 60-67.

Mizutani et al shows in figure 1B, at least one LED module with a support engagement member 7 to be removably received by a module receiving port (hole on display panel, col. 4, lines 31-35.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DONNIE L. CROSLAND whose telephone number is (703) 305-4388. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 9:30a-6:00p.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A Hofsass can be reached on (703) 305-4717. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-9051 for regular communications and (703) 308-9052 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.


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May 24, 2001



DONNIE L. CROSLAND  
PRIMARY EXAMINER